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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Boldyga responds to challenger claims of ducking debate

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – After a quiet month of September, noise has started to be made by the two candidates for State Representative of the Third Hampden District.

Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, is the incumbent seeking his sixth consecutive term in the seat. He was originally elected in 2010.

Boldyga dispatched of his

first-ever primary opponent, Agawam City Councilor Dino Mercadante on Sept. 1. He won handily and is now facing yet another Democratic challenger in Agawam School Committee member Kerri O'Connor.

Following Boldyga's primary win, O'Connor was quoted stating she would like to have a debate with the incumbent.

Since then, no debate has happened, either in person or in a virtual setting. Last Sunday, O'Connor sent an email to the

Massachusetts Republican Committee expressing her frustration over what she called a lack of response from Boldyga for a debate.

"I have publicly asked my opponent; GOP incumbent State Representative Nick Boldyga to debate and he has not responded," O'Connor stated in an email to Mass. GOP Chairman James Lyons. Like you stated in your release about the other sitting State Representative; all we are left to think is Rep. Boldyga 'is afraid to

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State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga



Kerri O'Connor

Girls soccer in action



Hope Santaniello makes a play during Agawam's win over Holyoke last Wednesday afternoon at Holyoke High School. More photos from the game are on page 8. PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Lions donate kits for glucose monitoring

AGAWAM – In addition to the focus on sight and hearing causes, Lions also have a focus on helping those with diabetes. Through fundraising projects and community support, the Agawam Lions Club has stepped up to the plate. On Oct. 1, Agawam Lions Club President, Deb Andrews, was proud to present a check to our town's Public Health Nurse,

Sherry Petrucci, to pay for the cost of eight complete sets of glucose monitoring test kits and test strips for our schools.

These test kits will be distributed to the four Agawam elementary schools, the high school, junior high school, and middle school along with the Early Childhood Center. The funds to purchase

LIONS | page 2



The Agawam Lions Club recently donated glucose monitors for the Agawam Public Schools. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Town announces early voting times and location

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – In a year where alternate forms of voting rather than the traditional Election Day in-person polls have become more commonplace; the Town of Agawam has announced early voting for the second time in a presidential election. Early voting was introduced as a voting option in the 2016 presidential election.

Mail-in voting has also become a popular alternative during the primary season and expanded to general election this fall.

Town Clerk Vincent Gioscia announced the Agawam Senior Center, which has been closed for most programs due to the coronavirus pandemic, will be the location for early voting for all residents in town. Any registered voter of Agawam can go to the senior center to cast a ballot. Any-

one who participates in early voting will receive the full ballot for the 2020 election, which includes the race for president of the United States, one U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, the local state representative and state senate races, and two ballot questions.

The main Election Day will be on Nov. 3, and on that day, voters would report to their various precinct locations.

EARLY VOTING | page 2



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Deadline set for connection installation

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam’s Department of Public Works has announced that Friday, Nov. 6 will be the last day to apply for road opening permits for the installation of water, sewer, or drain connections that have to be installed by the Town.

All connections applied for after the deadline will be installed in the spring of 2021.

This notice does not apply to connection which have been previously installed to the property line of an existing property.

Agawam Library offers Boston Children’s Museum weekend passes

AGAWAM – The Agawam Library announces the immediate availability of Boston Children’s Museum weekend passes, graciously provided by the Friends of the Agawam Library. These are available to reserve by Agawam and Feeding Hills residents 18 and older, with a CW/MARS library card in good standing. Each pass is valid only for the date listed and admits 4 people free of charge.

After receiving a library discount coupon from the library, patrons must then reserve their visit online with Boston Children’s Museum.

New Instructions for Patrons:

- Visit <https://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/ticketing>
- Review the directions for timed tickets
- Click on the “Discount Programs” & drop down arrow
- Click on “Half Price Library Timed Ticket” to book

The date on the Library Discount Coupon must match the date of the patron’s visit.

Once arriving at the Museum, visitors will proceed to the Admissions Scanning Station with their online reservation and the date specific Library Discount Coupon received from the library. Patron can present these digitally on a hand held device or as a paper print out.

Patrons with questions about the online ordering system should contact Orders@BostonChildrensMuseum.org

As venues reopen to the public, it is important to contact the zoo or museum you wish to visit, as each one has a different process for securing a time slot. Please visit the library’s website at www.agawamlibrary.org for availability.

LIONS ■ from page 1

these diabetic kits and strips came from the Agawam Lions Children’s Services Fund. Our community has contributed to this fund previously through donations and by attending fundraising events such as the annual corned beef and cabbage dinners, comedy show nights, and annual breakfasts.

Because of your support, the Agawam Lions Club is grateful to be able to help the children in our community who have diabetes.

Our next fundraising event will be the annual harvest breakfast to be held on Sunday, Oct. 25 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Agawam Lions Club Den on the Eastern States Exposition grounds. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Outdoor seating will be available, social distancing guidelines will be followed, and take-out orders can be accommodated. We hope to see you there!

DEBATE ■ from page 1

defend his policies and his party’s platform.”

O’Connor’s references to “publicly asking her opponent” were a pair of published articles that were focused on Boldyga’s primary win.

Boldyga responded on Monday afternoon, stating while he understands there were published reports, her campaign has never contacted his office or him personally to schedule a debate, or to discuss potential rules or formats for a debate.

“I’d be excited to debate my opponent on the issues and highlight why I’m the best choice to represent our district in Boston,” said Boldyga. “Unfortunately, my opponent has not sent me an invitation to debate or even directly contacted me about anything for that matter. My opponent has not provided any dates, times, locations, or named an independent organization she’d like to moderate the debate.”

Boldyga says he has attended every debate against Democratic challengers. He has been opposed in four re-election campaigns. He has even attended a television debate and answered questions alone because his opponent, Sam DiSanti, did not attend.

“Everyone knows that I have a successful history of debating Democratic challengers and this year is no different,” said Boldyga.

Boldyga said he is still open to having a debate if one can be set up. O’Connor expressed urgency to make a debate happen because early voting is beginning this weekend, and many voters are getting ready to make their decisions early.

“Let us allow the people of the district to see us side by side before they make their choice as many will be voting by mail very soon,” O’Connor stated.

EARLY VOTING ■ from page 1

In Agawam, early voting in person will be available at the Agawam Senior Center; 954 Main Street, Agawam on the following dates and times:

Saturday, October 17, 2020 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Friday, October 23, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 18, 2020 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Saturday, October 24, 2020 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Monday, October 19, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Sunday, October 25, 2020 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 20, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Monday, October 26, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 21, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 22, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Wednesday, October 28, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
	Thursday, October 29, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
	Friday, October 30, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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Juried photography show announced

AGAWAM – The Friends of the Agawam Public Library are very excited to announce their First Open Juried Virtual Photography Show. We are not able to have our annual show at the library, but we want to continue to share the outstanding work of area photographers. The show benefits the Agawam Public Library and provides a platform to recognize and encourage these photographers. Awards totaling \$1340 will be determined by judging done on January 13. Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk, both well recognized photographers, will be the judges.

The show is divided into four categories

of photography: creative, nature, photojournalism and pictorial. The entry fee is \$25 per entry up to and including November 30, 2020. Starting December 1, the fee will be \$30. If we have not received sufficient entries by January 1, 2021, the show will be cancelled and all fees returned.

All images must be original, made by the photographer, captured by film or digitally, and cannot be previous entries in our show. For the show's Prospectus and Entry Form, please visit www.agawamlibrary.org/about/friends. For further information please contact Bob Kadis at r.kadis@comcast.net or at 413-789-4814.

Virtual symphony pass available through library

AGAWAM — The Pioneer Valley Symphony is preparing for their upcoming 82nd season and for now they will be completely virtual...and free of charge. In the past, the Agawam Library has received passes valid for 2 adult and 2 children, however this year we have been provided with the code LIBRARYCOMP82, which will allow free access to any PVS "Presents" or "Discovery Series" online event.

The code may be redeemed by visiting the website www.pvsoc.org, going to the

TICKETS page and then entering the code at checkout. This will make the total value due \$0, and a confirmation email will be received with the access link to the event.

The PVS operates almost entirely due to the generosity of the community. Donations to support their education program, youth programming or subscription concert series may be made via their website, or by check mailed to PVS, 91 Main St. Greenfield, MA 01301.

Cultural Council announces writing competition

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council is sponsoring a writing competition for all Agawam Public School students. The topic is "Facing the Challenges of the Coronavirus - How did you do it?" Entries will be accepted from Oct. 15 through Nov. 30, and the winners will be chosen by members of the Agawam Cultural Council. Monetary prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third-place winning entries. The requirements for entry into this competition can be found on the ACC website and by contacting the librarians for each of the schools in Agawam. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jane Augusti at (413) 241-7196 or by email to:

maryjane.augusti@gmail.com.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the current pandemic stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, at: www.agawamcc.org.

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

Dunkin' launches new initiative to 'raise a cup' to local educators

Weekly sweepstakes program celebrates and gives back to local teachers in Western Massachusetts

Staff Report

SPRINGFIELD– From now through Nov. 5, Dunkin' is celebrating local educators with its new "Raise a Cup to Teachers" sweepstakes.

The promotion asks Dunkin' fans to nominate deserving teachers who run on Dunkin' for a chance to win several exciting prizes, including Dunkin' gift cards, money for the teacher and school– and for some lucky winners – free coffee for a year.

"Teachers deserve our thanks and support every year, but the start of the 2020 school year is obviously particularly challenging," said local Dunkin' business owner Peter Martins. "We hope our promotion will give our local educators a little something extra to look forward to, while shin-

ing a spotlight on the invaluable role they play in our children's lives both in and out of the classroom."

The "Raise a Cup to Teachers" Sweepstakes officially launched on Sept. 18, 2020 and will run through Nov. 5, 2020.

Here's how it works: Dunkin' fans living in the following counties in Massachusetts: Hamden, Hampshire and Franklin can nominate a deserving teacher who runs on Dunkin' by <https://dunkinpromotion.com/springfield>.

Each week in a random drawing, Dunkin' will award both winning nominators and teacher nominees with a \$50 Dunkin' gift card. In addition, the nominees will be automatically entered into a grand prize drawing for the chance to win \$5,000, a new computer, free coffee for a year, \$10 Dunkin' Gift Cards for students and \$5,000 for their school.

Free coffee for a year prize fulfilled in Dunkin' gift cards in the amount of \$598.

Quarantine stories still sought by Agawam Public Library

We are currently living through a historical time. We are experiencing things that people have never experienced before. The Agawam Library would like to learn what this time has been like for you. We are asking people up to age 17 to answer a few questions to document what they're going through during this time.

People up to age 17 are encouraged to answer the questions found at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/teens/digital-archive-for-kids-up-to-age-17/>

When we are done collecting the responses they will be bound into a book available for viewing at the Agawam Library. No names will be attached to entries, only initials. Also, since things have been changing so often it's okay to fill it out more than once.

The questions that will be asked are:

Some words that describe how I feel about having to stay home are:

Three things I like to spend my time doing are:

I am most grateful for:

The biggest change for me has been:

My favorite activity to do inside is:

The three things I'm most excited to do when this is over are:

Draw a picture about how you feel being at home:

If you have questions about the survey please contact Pamela Weingart, Children's



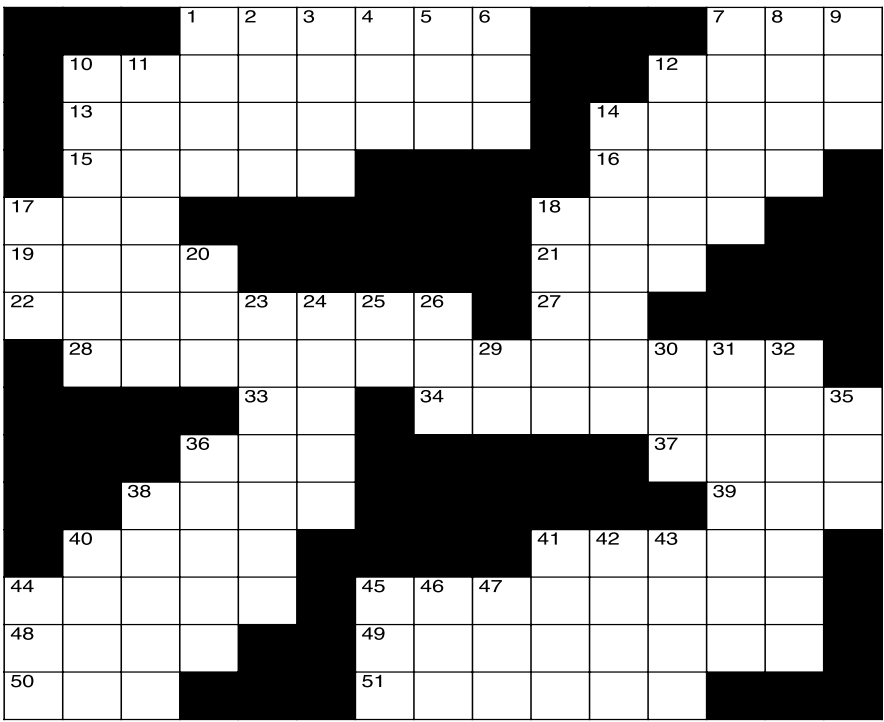
Quarantine stories from Agawam's youth are sought by Agawam Public Library. Contact the library for more information on submitting your story. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Librarian at the Agawam Public Library at pweingart@agawamlibrary.org or call the Agawam Library Children's Room at 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Church to hold tag sale

AGAWAM – There will be a tag sale at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., on Oct. 16 and 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be something for everyone- clothing and accessories,

toys, games, books, household items and more. Face coverings must be worn and social distancing guidelines will be in place.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Lunar crater
- 7. Upstate NY airport (abbr.)
- 10. Fruit
- 12. Seventh avatar of Vishnu
- 13. Organism that grows without air
- 14. Heals
- 15. A book has one
- 16. Open
- 17. Twitch
- 18. Plant of the mint family
- 19. Soon
- 21. Witch
- 22. Long, mournful complaint
- 27. Killer clown film
- 28. Keeps us occupied
- 33. Influential
- 34. Formation of concepts
- 36. Insecticide
- 37. Swiss river
- 38. Actress Lucy
- 39. Unit of g-force
- 40. Can repel attackers
- 41. Essential oil used as perfume
- 44. Cut into small pieces
- 45. Mexican agricultural worker
- 48. Best pitchers
- 49. Benign tumors
- 50. Danish krone
- 51. Looms above
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Make a map of

- 2. Cain and __
- 3. Dried-up
- 4. Corporate exec (abbr.)
- 5. Trading floor hand gesture
- 6. Strongly alkaline solution
- 7. Yemen capital
- 8. Military leader (abbr.)
- 9. Maintains possession of
- 10. Afternoon show
- 11. Imaginary being
- 12. Rearrange
- 14. Holy person or sage
- 17. __ Mahal
- 18. Backbone
- 20. Brooklyn hoopster
- 23. Intervened
- 24. Extremely angry
- 25. Indicates position
- 26. Chinese surname
- 29. Potato state
- 30. When you think you'll get there
- 31. __ Falls
- 32. Bullfighters
- 35. Born of
- 36. Small fishes
- 38. "Father of chemical warfare"
- 40. Waste matter
- 41. Skin disease
- 42. Scandinavian mythological god
- 43. __ and haws
- 44. Villain
- 45. Tell on
- 46. Difficulty
- 47. Not old

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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Questions about the mystery of spousal benefits

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: From what I've researched, the formula for spousal benefits seems very complicated. I read somewhere that it was a good idea to start the lower earning spouse's benefit at age 62, and have the higher earning spouse file at full retirement age, for the spouse to get maximum benefit. But that information does not seem correct from other things I've read. Please help me clear this up. My wife's birth year is 1956, and she now gets \$656/month in Social Security benefits after claiming at 62. I have not claimed my benefits yet and Social Security's estimator says I qualify for about \$2,850/month when I reach full retirement age. My birth year was 1957. So, if I take my benefit now at 63 will my wife's benefit go up? And if I wait until my full retirement age to claim, will she get half of my benefit? I've tried to research all of this, but it is still very unclear. Signed: Seeking Knowledge

Dear Seeking: Yes, the spousal benefit formula is complicated, especially when both of you are entitled to your own Social Security benefits. And there's never a simple answer to whether it is a good idea for the lower earning spouse to start benefits first at age 62. For one thing, it depends upon whether they are still working, but it also depends upon health, life expectancy, and need for the money early.

Nevertheless, if your wife's current age 62 benefit is \$656, then her benefit at her full retirement age (had she waited) would have been about \$895. This is known as her Primary Insurance Amount, or "PIA." Spouse benefits are computed using PIA amounts, so if your full retirement age (FRA) benefit will be \$2,850, here's how your wife's spousal benefit will be calculated if you claim your Social Security after your wife has already reached her FRA:

- 50% of your FRA benefit (PIA) is \$1,425. Because your wife's PIA is \$895, her spousal boost is \$530 (\$1,425 - \$895). Her spousal boost (\$530) will be added to her actual early benefit (\$656) and her new benefit amount as your spouse, at her FRA, will be about \$1,186. Obviously, that's less than half of your FRA benefit amount.

The computation changes if you claim your Social Security benefit now, before your wife has reached her full retirement age, because getting her spouse benefit before her FRA means her spousal boost will be reduced (she automatically gets her spousal benefit when you claim).

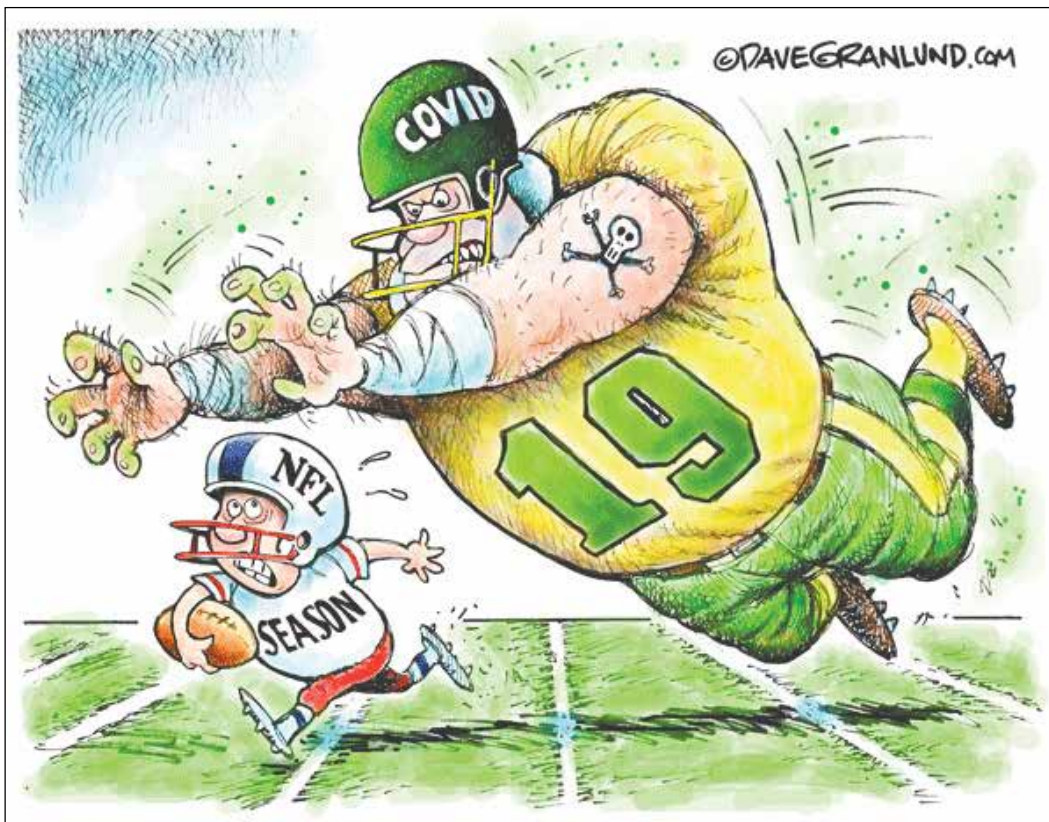
The reduction to the spousal boost is actuarial, according to the number of months before her FRA that it is taken. If you were to claim now when your wife is 64, her spousal benefit would be computed like this:

- The spousal boost amount of \$530 would be reduced because your wife hasn't yet reached her FRA. Instead of the full \$530 spousal boost, it would be reduced to about \$442. The reduced spousal boost is added to your wife's early Social Security benefit of \$656, for a total benefit of about \$1,098. Once again, less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

So, as you can see, because your wife took her own benefit at age 62, she cannot get a spousal benefit equal to 50% of your FRA benefit, regardless of when you claim. If you claim your Social Security before your wife reaches her FRA, your wife's spousal boost amount will be reduced, further lowering the total benefit amount your wife is entitled to as your spouse. The basic rule is this: any time any Social Security benefit is taken before one reaches their full retirement age, that benefit is reduced. And a spouse who claims their own Social Security retirement benefit before FRA will never get a spouse benefit equal to 50% of the other spouse's PIA.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal

BENEFITS | page 5



My favorite flowering bulbs and why

This is the first year in a long time that I won't be planting spring flowering bulbs. I want to, in fact I had more than one internet shopping cart close to the check-out point. But alas, the frugal side of me won, and I closed the cover of the laptop before reaching for the credit card.

You see, I already have numerous bulbs in the yard. But for those of you embarking on the wonderful world of spring bulbs, here are a few tips to ensure your success followed by a few of my all-time favorite varieties.

The general rule of thumb for planting spring flowering bulbs is to sink them into the ground at a depth of two times the height of the bulb. For example: If a tulip bulb is three inches from its point to its base, then plant it six inches deep. The same rule determines how far apart you plant bulbs from one another, only this time it goes by width. Therefore, a crocus corm that is only one inch wide should be planted two inches apart from its closest neighbor. Nearly all gardeners agree that spring-flowering bulbs look most appealing when planted in clumps, rather than planted singly or in rows.

For major bulbs such as tulips, narcissus or hyacinth, this translates into groups of at least three. For so-called minor bulbs like crocus, galanthus and muscari, I'd plant five at the very

minimum. If deer eat the tops of your emerging tulips or crocus, consider planting hyacinth and narcissus instead. Rodents often times find crocus bulbs yummy. Dissuade them by filling the bottom of the planting hole with sharp gravel. You can also try planting them in little cages made of half-inch galvanized hardware cloth.

Now for some of my favorites: 'Barrett Browning,' is a chart-topping daffodil with a creamy-white petals and a bright orange cup. It's a dependable bloomer in the garden and also does well indoors. Try forcing

some of these in a pot for successful indoor blooms after a few weeks in the refrigerator. 'Thalia,' an entirely white daffodil, is an heirloom and known as the orchid narcissus. It's very fragrant and prolific. Poeticus daffodils have white petals, a red-rimmed "eye" and are unusually fragrant. Speaking of fragrant, many of the double daffodils sport a heady scent and 'Sir Winston Churchill' is no exception. An orange/yellow center is surrounded by numerous ivory petals.

Two of my favorite tulips hail from the single early class. Typically this group are short-stemmed, ranging in height from 12 to 18 inches and have egg-shaped blooms. Treasured heirlooms 'Couleur Cardinal' with its deep red flowers and 'Keizerskroon,' a red and yellow bicolor, are both single early tulips. Double early tulips bloom

in late March/early April and come in a variety of pastel and bright colors. Durable stems top off at 10-12" tall. Try growing the yellow cultivar 'Monte Carlo' with an underplanting of blue hyacinth. Just stunning! One of my favorite all-time orange tulips is 'Gudoshnik,' a double-late tulip. Conjure up deep orange, butterscotch, rust and even sulfur and you will still be short a few shades when trying to describe this peony-like tulip to your gardening friends.

Either you love or you hate hyacinths. Some folks call them too stiff for the garden. Others say the fragrance is too strong for inside the house. This poor flower can't win. But for those of us who are fans, I say the more the merrier. We often see hyacinths in pastels, pinks and blues. Less common are the yellow and orange shades. Try 'City of Haarlem,' for a true light yellow or 'Gipsy Queen,' for a lovely tone of salmon.

All of this talk about spring flowering bulbs makes me want to open up the laptop to a certain shopping cart. You only live once, right? And having a few more flowers in the yard isn't such a bad thing, is it?

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

Freedom offers shredding day for area residents

SPRINGFIELD – Freedom Credit Union is pleased once again to offer the opportunity for western Massachusetts residents to securely purge unwanted paperwork. In cooperation with PROSHRED® Springfield, Freedom is offering free Community Shred Days at two of its branches on Friday, Oct. 16:

9-10 a.m.—Northampton Branch, 226 King Street
10:30-11:30 a.m.—Greenfield Branch, 74 Main Street

The public is invited to bring

old bills, bank statements, tax returns and other sensitive documents for free, quick and secure on-site shredding.

Members and non-members alike may bring up to five file boxes or paper bags (per vehicle) to the events. Masks are required and social distancing guidelines will be in effect.

For information about the full range of services offered by Freedom Credit Union, visit freedom.coop.



PHONE

413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 800.824.6548

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
John Baskin
jbaskin@turley.com

Interim Editor
Gregory Scibelli
aan@turley.com

Subscriptions
cgriswold@turley.com

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

INTERIM EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
aan@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com
Peter Spotts
peterspotts@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
John Baskin
jbaskin@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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Schools & Youth

New Preschool to open this fall

AGAWAM – Agawam's newest preschool will open at St. John the Evangelist Parish for children aged 2 years 9 months to Kindergarten ready this Fall! Applications are currently being accepted at the parish center by appointment. The school will be open between the hours of 7:00am and 5:00pm, with full time and part time schedules available.

"We had been planning to open a preschool next year but recognizing the great need of our families and the wider community at this moment, we have accelerated our opening date," says Claire Riberdy, Director. "While our permanent classrooms are still under construction, we converted our gymnasium into a city-approved, two-room preschool in order to meet the immediate need of parents."

St John's has worked diligently to create a fun, safe, and caring environment to nurture children and prepare them for kinder-

garten and is pleased to offer this childcare option for families for Agawam and beyond. Many people have poured their heart into this preschool and we are excited to open our doors and to provide the highest quality of child care to our families," said Claire. "We look forward to watching each of our students learn, grow, and develop in our program – not only as they prepare for Kindergarten, but in their faith life as well."

Social distancing, single-use supplies, regular hand-washing, and continual deep-cleaning of the facility will be carried out, as well as a complete sanitizing each night. Toys as well as materials for play and lessons will be prepared for each child to use individually. St John's will do everything to ensure our children's safety during the pandemic.

Please call the Director, Claire Riberdy at 786-8105, for further information or to schedule an appointment.



A new preschool is coming to St. John the Evangelist Parish. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

BENEFITS ■ from page 4

or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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Gregory Scibelli
Interim Editor
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A vendor fair with various crafts, jewelry, and other products were available two weekends ago on the grounds in front of the American Legion. The fair has been held twice during the fall and drew out many people looking to shop for early holiday gifts. HEADLINE: PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Obituary

Muriel C. Adelman

AGAWAM - Muriel C. "Mickie" Adelman, 81, passed away peacefully on October 5, 2020. She was born on July 26, 1939 in Dubois, PA and was the wife of the late Richard J. Adelman Sr. Mickie is survived by her beloved children Richard J. Adelman Jr. and his wife Kathy, Katherine A. LaPier and her husband Nicholas, and Robert M. Adelman; her cherished grandchildren LeeAnn, Ricky, Brian, Kendra, Nick, Alex and Logan; several great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren and countless other loving relatives and friends. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her daughter Mary E. Lebel and son Frederick M. Adelman. Mickie's family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff at The Atrium at Cardinal Drive for their compassionate care for Mickie over the past 2-1/2 years, as well as Beacon Hospice who provided additional comforting care and support for Mickie in her final days. A Liturgy of Christian Burial for Muriel will be held at 10AM on Friday, October 9, 2020 in St. John the Evangelist Church, 823 Main St., Agawam. A private burial will follow in the Massachusetts Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, Agawam. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Muriel's name to Sisters of St. Joseph, 34 Lower Westfield Rd., Suite 1, Holyoke, MA 01040 or Alzheimer's Association, 480 Pleasant St., Watertown, MA 02472. Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home, Agawam has been entrusted with arrangements. For on-line condolences please visit www.forastiere.com.



A TRAVELING BLESSING Mobile eucharistic processions coming to Belchertown neighborhoods

Staff report

BELCHERTOWN – Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Belchertown is excited to announce that their pastor, Father David Darcy will lead a series of Mobile Eucharistic Processions which will be held on Oct. 19, 21, 26 and 28; Nov. 2 and 4, beginning at 2 p.m. All Belchertown neighborhoods are cordially invited to participate.

For many months, the doors to most churches and houses of worship were shuttered; these venerable places are reopening slowly, but under guidelines that limit ability and impact function. However, as a result of coronavirus-focused health concerns, congregations are slow to return to worship.

For Roman Catholics, this closing stifled their ability to attend Mass as well as Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,

which is the displaying of the Eucharistic Host in a monstrance for all in attendance to see and pray in the presence of Jesus Christ.

During this pandemic period, pastors of all faiths have sought alternate ways to reach out to their parishioners and establish non-traditional, innovative ways to engage their faith filled congregations. In his effort to shepherd his flock at Saint Francis of Assisi Church, Father Darcy will lead a series of Mobile Eucharistic Processions through the Belchertown neighborhoods and invites residents to be out in their yards to share in this beautiful blessing as the procession drives through their area.

Go to the Saint Francis of Assisi Facebook page or website at stfrancisbelchertown.com for detailed date and route information.

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Storowton Village Museum offers and history and harvest tours

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Storowton Village Museum is offering a variety of safe, socially-distanced, educational programming for all ages. The tours follow all social distancing and mask-wearing guidelines and must be purchased in advance on the museum’s website, www.storowtonvillage.com.

MUSEUM & STEAM TOURS - \$8 and \$12; Tuesdays to Fridays at 11am & 3pm

In addition to general museum tours happening Tuesdays through Fridays at 11am, Storowton will offer a special 3pm tour focused entirely on science, technology, engineering, art and math. “We wanted to create an after-school type of tour for students who are learning remotely or homeschooled, as a way to get out of the house and take a break from screens,” said Jessica K. Fontaine, Director of Storowton Village Museum.

STEAM tours will provide an opportunity to share New England history through the lens of other disciplines and fields that people don’t often connect with history museums. This new tour aims to bridge the early days of American industrialization and the fast-paced, tech-heavy world that we live in now. The tour is geared toward ages 7-12 but all ages are welcome to learn.

Visitors will receive activity packs at the start of their tour and museum staff will guide them through the innovations of the museum’s 18th & 19th century buildings and people who lived and worked in them. Visitors will see artifacts of inventions and interesting machines then have the opportunity to use their imagination and complete a patent drawing of a new invention that could be a solution to a need in today’s world.

HISTORY & HARVEST - \$12; October 24 at 11am & 1pm and October 31 at 11am

Looking for fun and educational things to do as the leaves change color and the weather begins to cool? Learn about the history of New England’s storied harvest season on select Saturdays in October at Storowton Village Museum!

Museum staff will invite visitors into the Clark Blacksmith Shop to see blacksmiths working at the forge and find out how oxen were integral to the process of harvesting. Before leaving the shop visitors will make their own horseshoe nail rings. Another stop will be the Greenwich Barn — built circa 1750 — to find out how corn is ground, turned into traditional treats like Johnny Cakes, make corn husk dolls and dip candles. Visitors will also stop by the Gilbert Farmhouse, a classic New England farmhouse, to talk about food preservation and make their own seed-saving packets. Visitors will be given items along the way to take home, including recipe cards, a gourd to paint and other seasonal surprises. Kids are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes and take a picture by the “How Tall is Fall?” photo spot.

Additional tour dates and times can be accommodated by contacting the Museum in advance to make a reservation. Follow the museum on social media and sign up for the email newsletter at www.storowtonvillage.com.

Drive-thru food event continues

Tickets for the fourth and final week of Eastern States Exposition’s Big E Food-To-Go Drive-Thru, sponsored by Westfield Bank, Oct. 12-18, are on sale now at www.TheBigE.com. Tickets are still available for Week 3, now through Oct. 11.

The Drive Thru operates Tuesday through Sunday as follows: Tues. to Thurs., 11am to 7pm; Fri., 10am to 8pm; Sat., 9am to 7pm; and Sun., 9am to 5pm.

There is a \$5 per vehicle entry fee and reservations for specific time slots can be made online in advance. A maximum of fifty cars per hour within two-hour time slots will be admitted each day. Guests may secure as many time slots as they wish per week at \$5 per vehicle reservation. Drive-up customers are welcome on a first-come, first-served basis when there is space available. Guests enter through Gate 9 and follow the directions of the parking staff to ensure a smooth trip through the ordering and pick-up process.

With the new Food-To-Go Drive-Thru ticketing system and express lane, customers can expect a quick and easy trip through the line with minimal wait times.

The menu includes Big E favorites such as turkey legs, pork chop sandwiches, Billie’s Baked Potatoes, Chompers and more! Vendors are:

Week 3 – now thru Oct. 11

- Brew Garden Pub Food
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- Poppie’s Concessions
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- Week 4 - Oct. 13-18
- Angela’s Pizza
- Billie’s Baked Potato
- Calabrese Market & Grill
- Chompers
- Poppie’s Concessions
- Porky’s Pork Palace



Storowton Village has several programs happening in the next month. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



The Food-to-go event continues at the Big E grounds.

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SPORTS

SOCCER

Santaniello nets second hat trick in Brownies win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE—There are a couple of talented high school girls' soccer players from Western Massachusetts, who'll be playing soccer at a Division 1 college next year. Agawam senior forward Hope Santaniello is one of them.

Santaniello, who was injured most of last season, is healthy again. She posted her second consecutive hat-trick leading the Brownies to a 5-0 victory over the Holyoke Purple Knights at the Roberts Sports Complex, which is located on the Holyoke High School campus, last Wednesday afternoon. The match came to an end with 5:13 remaining in the third quarter because of a thunderstorm.

"Hope missed a lot of last season with an injury so it's so good to see her back," said Agawam head coach Laura Wray-Ramos. "To have her back in the mix is obvi-

ously a big confidence booster for the rest of the team. She came in making All-State as a freshman and already at that top level, and now she has just taken that level beyond my expectations for her. She's going to be our first Division 1 college player in more than five years."

Santaniello has given a verbal commitment to join the University of Rhode Island women's soccer team.

"I'm very grateful for the opportunity to play soccer in college," Santaniello said. "I couldn't have done it without the help of my family, teammates, and coaches."

Santaniello is very excited to be back on the field playing with her high school teammates.

"I'm very happy to be out there playing soccer again, especially with everything that's happening right now with the virus," she said. "I've worked very hard to get back."

HAT TRICK | page 9



Hope Santaniello steals the ball and heads for the goal.



Kailey Butler tries to hold possession of the ball. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Makenzie Shean tries to block her opponent's progress up the field.

RACING

Buffone takes Street Stock Open at World Series event

THOMPSON, Conn. — Belchertown, MA's Christopher Buffone was both good and lucky on his way to the \$1,000 win in the Street Stock Open at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on Friday, October 9. Buffone inherited the lead with less than two laps remaining in the 25-lap feature and took the victory on the first night of the 58th Annual Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing.

The youngster had surrendered the lead to Pascoag, RI's Chad Baxter on the

17th circuit. With laps winding down, it seemed Buffone could only watch Baxter drive off into the night. However, as the field entered turn one after getting the two-to-go signal, Baxter's engine went up in a cloud of smoke. His loss was Buffone's gain as the latter sped to a thrilling victory in his first-ever start at Thompson Speedway.

Incredibly, it was the third time one of Buffone's challengers had been waylaid by mechanical troubles. Buffone earned the pole by charging from 12th to 4th in his

qualifying race, netting him a +8 under the "plus-minus" system. After leading the first seven laps, Buffone gave way to Candia, NH's Jimmy Renfrew Jr., who came from seventh on the grid to sweep underneath him.

Coming out of turn two on the 10th lap, though, Renfrew's car shut down, handing the lead back to Buffone. A caution then came out for an unrelated incident involving Ed Flanagan Jr.'s stalled car. Renfrew's teammate Alby Ovitt, a many-time 8-cyl-

der Street Stock winner, lined up alongside Buffone for the restart. But Ovitt shut down as well after the green, taking another contender out of the running.

After trading some paint on the next restart, Buffone led a five car breakaway with Baxter, Corey Hutchings, Devon McConologue, and Kyle Gero. Baxter made his move on the 17th circuit, sticking his nose out front and then clearing Buffone a lap later. The final yellow flew with five laps to

RACING | page 9



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Christopher Buffone, of Belchertown, was the winner in the Street Stock event last weekend. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sports

RACING ■ from page 8

go when Flanagan again stalled his automobile. Baxter easily handled Buffone when the green flag flew, but his engine could not go the distance, letting Buffone snatch the win.

Hutchings grabbed second followed by McConologue and Gero. Christopher Smith, Corey Fanning, Shawn Monahan, Jon Porter, Paul Williams, and Don Perry completed the top-10.

Like Buffone, Sterling, CT's Jared Roy also made the most of some good fortune to get the win in the Thompson Mini Stock feature. Roy took the green flag in fourth for the 20-lap main event. Entering turn two on the first lap, though, polesitter Dave Trudeau drifted high and looped it. Second- and third-place starters Tommy Silva and Steve Michalski made hard contact trying to avoid him, sidelining both for the night.

As a result, Roy suddenly found himself in the lead. He darted away from the pack once, then did so again following another yellow on lap nine for Jeff Mazzella's spin. Trudeau tore back through the field and tried to chase down Roy in the closing laps. He could get no closer than three car lengths, though, as Roy capped the season with a victory.

Trudeau finished second. Chris Taylor came in third while Dave Trudeau Jr. topped a dogfight with Russell Barboza for the fourth spot.

Ben Levangie of Plymouth, MA went wire-to-wire to win the 15-lap Vintage Modified Open feature. Hauppauge, NY's Mark Miller moved up to second early and was gaining on Levangie at the halfway mark.

However, as the field came down the backstretch for the ninth time, Miller's engine expired and set him to the pits. It was smooth sailing from there for Levangie as he won by half a straightaway over Unionville, CT's Gary Byington. Bobby Gegetsas completed the podium.

Rick MacDowell of Sheffield, MA held off a snarling pack of Senior Tour Auto Racers Late Models to win the 15-lap feature. MacDowell got the jump over Nassau, NY's Robert Keefner following the race's only caution at lap five when Bob Seward shut down in turn three. He then led a multi-way battle down the stretch with five cars under a blanket at the front.

Housatonic, MA's Joseph Keefner chased MacDowell over the final laps, but could not do anything with him and crossed the finish line in second right on MacDowell's bumper. Bob Guyon, Joe Henderson, and Gary Moore rounded out the top-five.

Alan Zemla made the trip from Windham, ME worth the drive with a victory in the Senior Tour Auto Racers Modifieds. Zemla went nose to nose with Higganum, CT's Skip Swiantek throughout the 20-lap event as the top six ran door-to-door and bumper-to-bumper.

Swiantek poked a wheel out from entering turn three multiple times, but Zemla came back each time, beating him the checkered flag by a few feet. Thomas Trempe edged Gregg Massini for third with Darryl Dutch taking fifth.

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Help feature your student-athletes

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is underway and Turley Publications has been back out covering the action for the first two weeks.

We continue to ask for help on this season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

We have a limited number of staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we cannot get to everywhere.

If you are a parent, coach, or even player, and you have information or photographs to share, we definitely want to hear from you.

If you don't see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us.

Otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any milestones that occur during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide us is accurate and check with coaches, if necessary, before submitting.

We also encourage all coaches to submit their results and details as much as possible. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.

HAT TRICK ■ from page 8

Santaniello recorded her first hat-trick of the season in the Brownies 4-0 season opening win at Hampshire Regional on Oct. 1.

Agawam (3-0) took a 1-0 lead against Holyoke (0-3) with 13:15 left in the first quarter when Santaniello fired a low shot into the right corner past Holyoke senior goalkeeper Taryn Ryan (13 saves). Senior midfielder Makenzie Shean was credited with the assist.

Shean, who finished the game with three assists, hasn't made her college decision yet, but she's also capable of playing soccer at the next level.

"Makenzie is so underrated, she's one of the best players on our team," Ramos said. "She's a playmaker, she's unselfish, she'll set up Hope all day long and never worry about herself scoring. Hope is great, but we have confidence in the rest of our girls too."

The Brownies also had shots on goal in the first quarter by junior midfielder Kailey Butler, junior midfielder Gianna Smith, and sophomore forward Isabel Lalancette during the opening quarter, but the score remained 1-0.

With 15:55 left in the second quarter, Shean put a shot into the right corner of the net, which was assisted by senior forward Emily Landry.

The Brownies third goal was scored by Lalancette ten minutes later. It was her first career goal in a varsity game.

"Isabel has been trying to score a goal for over a year now," Santaniello said. "She always works very hard at practice and I'm very happy for her."

Agawam junior goalkeeper Clara Laudato didn't see very much action during the first 40 minutes of the contest.

Before the bad weather arrived late in the third quarter, Santaniello scored her second goal on a set-shot into the upper right corner, which was assisted by Landry.

Just like in the first quarter, the duo of Shean (assist) and Santaniello (goal) hooked up again with 11:45 remaining on the scoreboard clock.

The Brownies closed out last week with a 2-1 win over Westfield, who are the defending Western Mass. Division 1 champions, last Friday. Senior midfielder Stephanie Maloni and Santaniello combined to score goals for Agawam in their home opener.

Agawam is also slated to host Holyoke on Oct. 26.



Angelina Largay tries to get the ball down the left sideline.



Emilie Ottomaniello tracks down the loose ball. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



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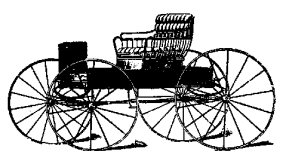
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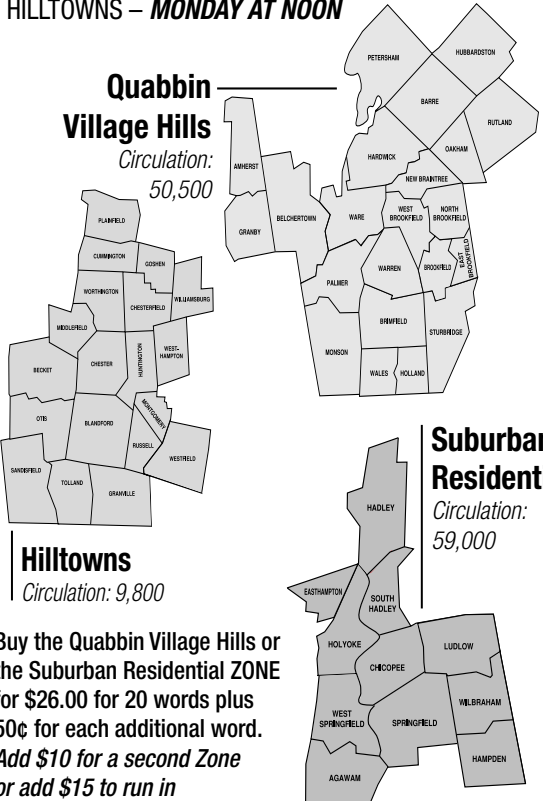
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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
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Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Auditorium at the Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Agawam Mayor William Sapelli on a proposed Zoning Amendment entitled "Accessory Apartments". A copy of the proposed ordinance (TOR-2020-5) can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office at pkerr@agawam.ma.us or from the Agawam City Clerk's Office at vgioscia@agawam.ma.us. This meeting may be viewed live on Channel 15 as well as live-streamed on the town's website at www.agawam.ma.us.

Any member wishing to provide testimony during the Public Hearing on TOR-2020-5 may do so by dialing 1-978-990-5187 and using access code 8476635 followed by # sign. **Calls must be made at 7:05pm to provide testimony.** This remote hearing will be live-streamed on the Town of Agawam's website at www.agawam.ma.us and also be televised

on Cable Access Channel 15. TOR-2020-5 is available for public inspection by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at vgioscia@agawam.ma.us

BY ORDER OF:
Christopher C. Johnson
City Council President
10/15, 10/22/2020

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD16P1933EA
Estate of:**

**John Allen Farrington
Date of Death: 08/13/2016
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Barbara D Farrington of Agawam MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To

do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/30/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 01, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
10/15/2020

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD20P1692GD
In the interests of
Alexander J Gonyea
of Agawam, MA
Minor**

**NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment
of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES**
1. Hearing Date/Time:

A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 09/28/2020 by **Lawrence J Gonyea** of Agawam, MA; **Judith A Gonyea** of Agawam, MA will be held **11/03/2020 10:00 AM Motion**. Located: **www.zoomgov.com, Meeting ID 1604949047, Dial in 646-828-7666, Judge Sacks**

2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. **Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. **Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by fill-

ing out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: September 30, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
10/15/2020

How to submit legal notices

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie Joslyn directly at 413-283-8393, ext. 216.

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DAY/DAY SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS AND PARAEDUCATORS.
The Ludlow Public School District is currently accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year. Applicants can apply online at www.schoolspring.com for more information contact Carrie Haluch at 413.583.8372 ext. 121

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TOWN OF LUDLOW Full time G2 Mechanic/Light Equip Operator, Westover Golf Course. Duties: repair, maintain, test electrical, pneumatic and hydraulic systems on equip; maintain cutting units within factory specs & inspect/adjust reel/bed knife units; purchase/maintain stock; schedule service on equip. Also, maintain golf course, grounds, buildings and set up course as needed. Must be able to work independently, conduct safety checks of equip and adhere to safety rules/procedures. Exp. as Equip. Operator & min. 3 yrs w/gas & diesel engine repair; hydraulic and electrical systems & exp. w/reel & bed knife cutting units preferred. Must have valid MA Driver's Lic, Must obtain MA Class 2D Hoisters Lic & become CPR/AED certified within 6 mths of hire. Rate: \$19.60 - \$22.92.
Go to www.ludlow.ma.us for application. Submit completed App., resume & cover ltr by October 22, 2020 to: HR@ludlow.ma.us or mail to HR Dept, 488 Chapin St, Ludlow, MA 01056. Town of Ludlow is an EOE/AA.

TOWN OF LUDLOW seeks qualified candidates for FT Public Safety Dispatcher. Duties: Answer 911 calls; assign police, fire and emergency medical staff and equipment for calls, complaints, emergencies, and alarms for fires, burglar, medical, panic, etc. Log assignments and radio communications. Maintain open lines of communication to request additional info. and update responders. High school diploma or equivalent; experience working with the public and/or emergency services preferred. Must meet all state standards for public safety communications officer, including background checks; and acquire appropriate certifications within specified timelines. Salary: \$19.60-\$22.92/hr. Go to www.ludlow.ma.us for applications. Submit completed App., resume & cover letter by October 22, 2020 to: HR@ludlow.ma.us or mail to HR Dept, 488 Chapin St., Ludlow, MA 01056. Town of Ludlow is an EOE/AA.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Classified Advertising DEADLINES

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FRIDAY
AT NOON**

**HILLTOWNS
MONDAY
AT NOON**

Pioneer Valley Planning advises public to be septic smart

Staff report

REGION – If your household relies on a septic system for disposal of sanitary sewage, September is a great time to make sure all is properly functioning.

Septic systems are typically designed to treat wastewater from your home before it filters into the soil and replenishes the groundwater that feeds local lakes and rivers, and in many cases, drinking water supply wells. So proper function is not only important to avoiding major problems in your household, but also to ensuring clean drinking water and ensuring fishable-swimmable rivers and lakes.

Members of the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee, a regional co-

alition of 19 municipalities plus UMass Amherst, encourage all septic system owners to take the following five steps recommended by MassDEP:

Inspect your system at least once every three years. A reputable, permitted septage hauler can advise you on the frequency of pumping needed for your particular household. For homes with garbage disposals, pumping once a year is recommended.

Limit the use of your kitchen sink garbage disposal and flush only human waste down your toilets. This will keep your system working optimally and reduce the overall frequency of maintenance.

Properly dispose of hazardous or toxic substances, such as medicines, household chemicals, solvents, etc. These substances

are not treated by your septic system and contaminate groundwater.

Avoid driving over, parking on, or doing construction over your system and tank as this can impact proper function of your system.

Conserve water to reduce the amount of liquid your system has to process, and thereby extend its lifespan.

Pumping a septic tank is critical to ensuring that the system properly treats waste. Accumulated solids at the bottom of a tank can prevent the system from doing its job. If a septic system is not in good working order, it can also flood and cause sewage backup into yards or homes.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Principal Environmental Planner Patty

Gambarini, who facilitates the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee notes, “While you can imagine how harmful raw sewage could be to your property, it is also important to note the harm a faulty septic system can cause to drinking water and local waterways.”

More information on maintaining septic systems is available at the state website, <https://www.mass.gov/guides/caring-for-your-septic-system>, or the Think Blue Connecticut River website, <https://thinkblueconnecticutriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/MaintainingSeptic-Updated-for-PV.pdf>

For more information contact Pat Beaudry, pbeaudry@pvpc.org or 413-210-4658

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